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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,073	02/06/2004	Yasunori Atarashi	2005_1820	7134

7590 08/27/2007  
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EXAMINER
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CUTLIFF, YATE KAI RENE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1621

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/27/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/774,073	Applicant(s) ATARASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Yate' K. Cutliff	Art Unit 1621	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/06/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 10 are pending

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 7 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Umemoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,767,059)

The rejected claims are to a product which is a fragrance cosmetic toiletry product, which has N-acylamino acid or a salt thereof. Examiner takes notice, based on Applicant's disclosure where the terms "fragrance cosmetic toiletry" is a collective term of quasi-drugs and cosmetics as defined by the Pharmaceutical Affairs law, which specifically includes quasi-drugs for example as bath agent, toilet soap and face wash.

The Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") determines the scope of claims in patent applications not solely on the basis of the claim language, but upon giving claims their broadest reasonable construction "in light of the specification as it would be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art." *In re Am. Acad. of Sci. Tech. Ctr.*, 367 F.3d 1359, 1364[, 70 USPQ2d 1827] (Fed. Cir. 2004).

Umemoto et al. contains a cleansing composition that contains N-acylamino acid salt and can be used on the skin. (see column 2, lines 24 – 30).

The product of Umemoto et al. the product of claims 8 – 10 appear to be the same without any factual evidence that process imparted something different to the N-acylamino acid or the salt. Therefore, the prior art of Umemoto et al. discloses a product that is completely embraced by claims 8 – 10.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claim 1 - 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al. (U.S. Patent 3,758,525) in view Yoshiaki et al. (JP 01-124460).

### **Applicant Claims**

Applicant claims a method for the production of N-acylamino acid or a salt thereof, which comprises a step of reacting an amino acid or a salt thereof with a fatty acid halide under basic conditions in the presence of a phosphorus compound. Rejected claim 2 discloses that the phosphorus compound is a reducing phosphorus compound. Rejected claims 3 discloses that reducing phosphorus compound is selected from the group consisting of a phosphorous acid, a hypophosphorous acid and metal salts thereof. Rejected claims 4 disclosed that the amount of the phosphorus compound to be added is 0.5-38 wt% of the amino acid or a salt thereof. Rejected claims 5 discloses that the amino acid is an acidic amino acid, with rejected claim 6 disclosing that it is a glutamic acid or a sodium salt thereof.

### **Determination of the Scope and Content of the Prior Art (MPEP §2141.01)**

Yoshida et al. teaches in Examples 1- 15 methods of producing N-higher aliphatic acyl acidic amino acids or their salts (N-acylamino acid or a salt thereof).

Yoshiaki et al. teaches the use of phosphorus compounds to obtain a compound with deodorizing properties.

### **Ascertainment of the Difference Between the Scope of the Prior Art and the Claims (MPEP §2141.012)**

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Yoshida et al. lacks the express teaching of the use of a phosphorus to eliminate the odor that remains in the product after the reaction process. For this reason Examiner joined Yoshiaki which add phosphoric acids to a compound to obtain a composition with excellent deodorizing properties. This difference of adding phosphoric acid to eliminate odor appears to be well within the purview of an ordinary artisan.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do make such an addition in order to make the product have a more pleasant odor.

Therefore, the invention as a whole was *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

8. **No claims are allowed.**

### ***Conclusion***


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yate' K. Cutliff whose telephone number is (571) 272-9067. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on (571) 272 - 0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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